

I would also point out, Madam Speaker, that we are responding to another important question that we hear from folks back home in the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs, and that is how come nobody ever talks about the national debt, how come no one ever talks about the need to pay down that national debt that ran up all those years that Washington had deficit spending? I am proud to say that last year we paid down \$50 billion of the national debt, this year we are going to pay down a hundred billion dollars, and under the Republican budget plan we paid down almost \$2.2 trillion of the national debt, over two-thirds of our national debt over the next 10 years.

Madam Speaker, the third question that I often hear back home is when are we going to do something about taxes. People tell me their taxes are too high, they are too complicated, they are unfair. They are frustrated that our tax burden on American today is at its highest level in peace time history. Forty percent of the average family's income goes to government. In fact, 21 percent of our gross domestic product, 21 percent of our economy, goes to Federal Government and taxes, and that is too high.

We passed earlier this year a measure to address the need to lower taxes, particularly for the middle class, and we had legislation which would have eliminated the marriage tax penalty for the majority of those who suffer, that would have eliminated the death tax on small businesses and family farmers, that would have rewarded those who save for retirement, those who save for their children's and college education and also would have rewarded providing health care coverage for one's employees as well as their family, and unfortunately President Clinton vetoed that effort to help families by bringing fairness to the Tax Code, and he stated, and he was very blunt; he said he vetoed this tax cut because he wanted to spend that money instead.

That is really what this is all about over the next week or so as we wrap up this legislative session. President Clinton has made it very clear he wants to spend a lot more money than Republicans do, and he says that we can do it if we increase taxes, and the President says we could do it if we raid the Social Security Trust Fund.

Madam Speaker, I very proud last week when this House of Representatives cast a vote 419 to 0, which means that every member who cast a vote voted in opposition to the President's proposal for \$238 billion in tax increases. That is a very clear message to the President that we oppose his tax increases, and I also want to point out that this House also went on record in opposition to the President's plan to raid Social Security. We need to oppose his tax increases, we need to stop the raid on Social Security, but we can balance the budget without those.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Robert Dvorak, The Evangelical Church, Middletown, Connecticut, offered the following prayer:

Let the House be in a spirit of prayer. Lord, our God, we enter into this week's schedule, mindful again of the duty to work hard and well for others. Many are waiting and hoping; even nations observe. You, the living God, see and hear us, too, taking note of all things.

We pray, then, for ourselves that You will sharpen the focus on responsibilities rightly asked of us, keeping us true to our trust. Grant us firmness in thinking, tempered by allowances for honest, contrary thought. Send a few moments our way wherein we may seek true advantage for ones around us, thereby refreshing them and ourselves.

At day's end, encourage us with a sense that life in Washington and the world is better because of the part we have played in things. Now, for this day, keep in Your protecting hand all Members of this House, its leadership, officers, and staff. Make the spirit of each to prosper with new grace the call of this prayer to You, O God. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 22, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 22, 1999 at 9:52 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2367.

Appointment: Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 22, 1999 at 4:50 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 2466.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.

PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Pain Relief Promotion Act. There is a question currently pending in the country of Holland. It is this: Is the Netherlands ready for the killing of sick children?

There is a bill in their parliament that would allow the killing of seriously ill children, as young as between 12 years old, if they are considered terminal.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Dutch Medical Association said, "The doctor will do his utmost to try to reach an agreement between the patient and parents. But if the parents do not want to cooperate, it is the doctor's duty to respect the wishes of her patient." So much for the Hippocratic Oath for civilized medical institutions.

This situation in the Netherlands gives us all the more reason to pass the Pain Relief Promotion Act. This act will provide doctors with the ability to aggressively treat their patients' pain while prohibiting assisted suicides or euthanasia.

We never want to see the day when our young kids or our elderly parents legally and intentionally die at the hands of a so-called doctor.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to promote pain management and palliative care and positive alternatives to euthanasia.

WACO STILL A BURNING QUESTION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after 6 years, Waco is still burning. These fires will not stop until our government tells the truth. Ninety Americans killed, and nobody, nobody has been held accountable to this date, even though the Government used deadly gas, used a bulldozer, and could have arrested David Karesh any morning out jogging.

Now, despite government denial, they find a high caliber shell casing near a position stand of an FBI sniper.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. One can fool some of the people some of the time, but one cannot fool all of the people all of the time. The Government is lying about Waco.

I yield back the fact that the Justice Department, by the way, investigates themselves.

STOP RAIDS ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND ONCE AND FOR ALL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, being a leader means making some tough choices. This year, we have a historic opportunity to lock away 100 percent of the Social Security surplus and put an end to the Democrats' practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

It means we have to make tough choices between saving Social Security or funding some other goal, like the President's desire to increase foreign aid by approximately 30 percent, taking it all out of Social Security.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is not whether we want to spend more on foreign aid or other programs. The question is whether we want to spend more on these programs if it comes out of the expense of Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, we Republicans have chosen to say no to more government spending and yes to stopping the Democratic leadership's raid on Social Security.

The American people have already made that choice as well. They would rather protect Social Security and Medicare than continue funding the fraud, waste, and abuse that runs rampant in government bureaucracy. Americans have to make tough financial choices every day, and I would encourage the Democratic leadership to stop demagoguing this issue and to join our bipartisan effort to end the raid on Social Security once and for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIT KING

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, last night was a special night for Cincinnatians and for baseball fans across the country. For the first time in over 10 years, the Hit King himself, Cincinnati's own Pete Rose, was back on the baseball field to the ovation of thousands. He had the honor of being selected to baseball's All-Century team by the American people.

Charlie Hustle, who graduated from Western Hills High School in my district, was always known for his hard work, his extra effort, and head-first slides. Pete Rose was one of the greatest ball players of all time, winning three batting titles, three world championships, and setting the all-time major league record for most hits.

Although the night was tainted by the senseless inquisition of an overzealous reporter, it still belonged to baseball fans everywhere.

So congratulations to the Cincinnati Reds' Pete Rose and Johnny Bench, as well as all the other members of the All-Century team. Their accomplishments will be remembered well into the next millennium.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any rollcall votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

EXEMPTING CERTAIN REPORTS FROM AUTOMATIC ELIMINATION AND SUNSET

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3111) to exempt certain reports from automatic elimination and sunset pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3111

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN REPORTS FROM AUTOMATIC ELIMINATION AND SUNSET.

Section 3003(a)(1) of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (31 U.S.C. 1113 note) does not apply to any report required to be submitted under any of the following provisions of law:

(1) The following sections of title 18, United States Code: sections 2709(e), 3126, and 3525(b), and 3624(f)(6).

(2) The following sections of title 28, United States Code: sections 522, 524(c)(6), 529, 589a(d), and 594.

(3) Section 3718(c) of title 31, United States Code.

(4) Section 9 of the Child Protection Act of 1984 (28 U.S.C. 522 note).

(5) Section 8 of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. 1997f).

(6) The following provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968: sections 102(b) (42 U.S.C. 3712(b)), 520 (42 U.S.C. 3766), 522 (42 U.S.C. 3766b), and 810 (42 U.S.C. 3789e).

(7) The following provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act: sections 103 (8 U.S.C. 1103), 207(c)(3) (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)(3)), 412(b) (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)), and 413 (8 U.S.C. 1523), and subsections (h), (i), (o), (q), and (r) of section 286 (8 U.S.C. 1356).

(8) Section 3 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (22 U.S.C. 1622).

(9) Section 9 of the War Claims Act of 1948 (50 U.S.C. App. 2008).

(10) Section 13(c) of the Act of September 11, 1957 (8 U.S.C. 1255b(c)).

(11) Section 203(b) of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1989c-2(b)).

(12) Section 801(e) of the Immigration Act of 1990 (29 U.S.C. 2920(e)).

(13) Section 401 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. 1364).

(14) Section 707 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691f).

(15) Section 201(b) of the Privacy Protection Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 2000aa-11(b)).

(16) Section 609U of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10509).

(17) Section 13(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.).

(18) Section 1004 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000g-3).

(19) Section 1114 of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3414).

(20) Section 11 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 621).

(21) The following provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978: sections 107 (50 U.S.C. 1807) and 108 (50 U.S.C. 1808).

(22) Section 102(b)(5) of the Department of Justice and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (28 U.S.C. 533 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.